

Rev S. Spaulding

THE NATIONAL ERA.

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TERMS.

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BUSINESS NOTICES.

As this paper is not sent to any new subscriber, unless paid in advance, the reception of it will be a sufficient receipt.

Agents and others, in sending names, are requested to give the name of the paper, and have each letter signed. Give the name of the Post Office, the County, and the State.

for crime must be decided by their relations to the prevention of crime and well-being of society, which are to be determined as much by a careful observation of facts as theoretical reasoning concerning human nature.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

We find in the London Anti-Slavery Reporter

extracts from the papers on the Slave Trade recently laid before Parliament, among which is the correspondence between Colonel Shiel, on behalf of the British Government, and Hajee Meera Agaheul, on behalf of the Shah of Persia. It appears that the latter dignitary, who is said to be even the "Royal Jewish voluntary," the number of his wives and female slaves, had virtually promised to issue a firman prohibiting the traffic in slaves, provided it should be found consistent with the Mohammedan religion so to do, and in all cases, for the benefit of the slaves, so as to make no account even of such remittances.

Agents and others who wish to send us fractional parts of a dollar, can now do so without increasing the postage, by remitting *pre-paid* post office stamp, which can now be obtained at any post office.

Agents and others having funds to forward, send, if the amount be considerable, to the shape of some bank a draft on New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore. Smaller amounts may be transmitted by mail, observing, when convenient, to send large sums by New England, New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore. Do not send certificates of deposit.

Any clergyman who will procure four subscribers, and send us eight dollars, may have a fifth copy gratis for a year.

Mr. F. J. Palmer in his newspaper agency,

New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, is duly authorized to procure advertisements for this paper.

Within the last month we have received two or three papers, each containing the direction of papers, addressed to us, to what post office, county, or State, the papers have heretofore been sent. Without these, we cannot change the direction.

We invite the attention of those who are interested in the publication of this paper to the following table, showing the rate of discount on uncurrent money in this city. We earnestly hope that those who send money will be debarred to send such bank bills as are at the lowest discount:

Washington, D. C. - - - - - Par.

Baltimore - - - - - Par.

Philadelphia - - - - - Par.

New York city - - - - - Par.

New England - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dis.

New Jersey - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Eastern Pennsylvania - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Western Pennsylvania - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Maryland - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Virginia - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Western Virginia - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Ohio - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Kentucky - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Tennessee - - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ do.

Michigan - - - - - 3 do.

Canada - - - - - 5 do.

One would think the Shah had been reading the essays of certain of our American divines, on the Scriptural sanctions of Slavery. Human nature, we take it, is much the same the world over. The cunning heads in Christendom or Paganism, whether covered with hat or turban, always, as last resort, when some wrong of theirs, wholly inexcusable and indefensible in the light of reason and nature, is assailed, fall back upon Bible or Koran to prove its sacred origin, and to demonstrate that an act of simple justice and humanity is rebellion against God and His Prophet.

In consequence of this scruple of the devout Mussulman, Colonel Shiel procured from several learned Mullahs and Doctors of Mohammedan Theology, at Teheran, decisions as to the lawfulness of Slavery. In reading their answers, one is irresistibly reminded of the subtle disquisitions of some of our own Doctors, for the purpose of showing that Slavery, bad as they confess it to be, having had Divine sanction, is not *in iure se.*

No. 1. What do the learned doctors in religion and the law on the following point? If it should abolish the right of a master to buy and sell female slaves, and abstain from the traffic, will it injure or not to the faith? Let them declare this, that it may be known.

Decree. Selling male and female slaves is an abomination according to the law of God. The work of men is the work of men's faith. The tradition of Mohammed is God it who knows.

Sealed by Mullah Meera Mahmood Amdamendee.

No. 2. What do the learned doctors in the law and religion decide on the following point? If they should discontinue the traffic and trade of male and female slaves, is it any injury to religion?

Decree. In the name of God, trading in male slaves is an abomination, but it is also an abomination to sell and buy female slaves, and abstain from the traffic, if any injury or not to the faith? Let them declare this, that it may be known.

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ridiculous, since the glove-maker has proved to that Nature has been so stupid as to make the human hand much too large, and in such a manner that it shall appear much smaller and weaker than it really is; and, in this point of view, it does not signify whether the hand and wrist are partly exposed (as is now inevitable) to the sun and rain, or not.

What can we say of all this? Are shoemakers and tailors our benefactors, deserving of our gratitude? or shall we say that they are our enemies, our tormentors, who injure our health, and make cariocles of us, and deserve to be expelled from our country?

That would be a severe punishment, but hardly too much so, if we reflect that there are persons who have lived three years, and cannot remember even in their whole lives, to have had a single garment, a single article of clothing, which they were not ashamed of, and that there are many who have twenty or thirty pairs, and more, than that is convenient.

We will conclude with two questions: Is there an instance of a shoemaker having made a pair of boots, or a tailor an article of dress, which gave entire satisfaction at the first trial? Not one.

Is there an instance of a shoemaker or a tailor, who received a boot or an article of dress as a present, and who, to make a new pair or a new coat exactly like it, and did as he was told. Not one can be adduced.—*Humorist.*

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 7, 1848.

THE BILLS.

We enclose bills to a large portion of our subscribers. The rest will be favored with them next week. Please respond.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Followers of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

Under the benign Providence of Almighty God, the representatives of the States and of the People are again brought together to deliberate for the public good. The gratitude of the nation to that sovereign Arbiter of all human events, should be manifested with the boundless blessings which we enjoy.

Peace, plenty, and contentment, reign throughout our borders, and our beloved country presents a sublime moral spectacle to the world.

The remarkable and unusual condition of some of the principal European Powers, has had a necessary tendency to check and embarras trade, and to depress prices throughout all commercial nations; but, notwithstanding these causes, the United States, with their abundant products, have felt their effects less severely than any other country, and their great interests are still prosperous and successful.

In reviewing the great events of the past year, and contrasting the agitated and disturbed state of other countries, with our own tranquill and happy condition, we cannot but feel grateful that we are the most favored people on the face of the earth. While the people of other countries are struggling to establish free institutions, under which man may govern himself, we are in the act of subduing them—a task inherited from our fathers. When we have been disengaged from our country, and have been disengaged by civil war or intestine strife, we settle all our political controversies by the peaceful exercise of the rights of freedom at the ballot-box. The great remainder of our time has been personally spent in the field, in battle, with our countrymen, who, by the will of the majority, constitutionally expressed, shall prevail, is our sure safeguard against force and violence. It is a sure sign of just pride, that our fame and character as a nation continue to grow, and to increase.

To our wise and free institutions it is to be attributed, that while other nations have achieved glory at the price of the suffering, distress, and impoverishment of their people, we, in our more peaceful positions, with an increasing individual comfort and happiness, have been friendly and pacific, and with all nations are friendly and pacific. Adventurous treaties of commerce have been concluded with Mexico, Peru, New Granada, Chile, Brazil, the Two Sicilies, Belgium, Hanover, Oldenburg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Pursuing our example, the restrictive system of Great Britain, our principal foreign customer, has been relaxed; a more liberal commercial policy has been adopted; other enlightened nations, and our trade has been enlarged and diversified. Our country stands higher in the respect of the world than at any former period.

To continue to occupy this proud position, it is only necessary to prove our fidelity to the great and fundamental principle of our national policy, of non-interference in the domestic concerns of other nations. We recognize in all nations the rights which we enjoy ourselves, to change and reform their political institutions, according to their own will and convenience. Hence we do not look behind existing Governments, capable of maintaining their own authority. We recognise all such actual Governments, not only from the dictates of true policy, but from a sacred regard for the independence of nations.

While this is our settled policy, it does not follow that we can ever be indifferent spectators of the progress of liberal principles. The Government and People of the United States waited with enthusiasm and delight the establishment of the French Republic, and now we shall be equally pleased to see the States of Germany, in a similar manner, in many respects, to our own Federal Union. If the great and enlightened German States, occupying as they do a central and commanding position in Europe, shall succeed in establishing a federal Government, similar to the one at the same time to the Government of each State local Governments adapted to the peculiar condition of each, with unrestricted trade and intercourse with each other, it will be an important era in the history of human events. Whilst it is the natural tendency of the power of Germany, it must essentially prove the cause of peace, commerce, civilization, and constitution, all liberty, throughout the world.

With all the Governments on this continent our relations, it is believed, are on a more friendly basis than ever, and when they have ever been at any former period.

Since the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace with Mexico, our intercourse with the Government of that Republic has been of the most friendly character.

The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico has been received and accredited, and a diplomatic representative from Mexico of similar rank has been received and accredited by this Government.

The amicable relations between the two countries, which have hitherto been happily maintained, and are destined to be long preserved. The two Republics both situated on this continent, and with determinate territories, have every motive of sympathy and of interest to make them together a perpetual amity.

This gratifying condition of foreign relations renders it unnecessary for me to call attention more specifically to them.

It has been my constant aim and desire to cultivate at home, and peaceably, relations abroad, constitute the true permanent policy of our country. War, the scourge of nations, sometimes becomes inevitable, but always to be avoided with the greatest consistency with the rights and honor of our country.

One of the most important results of the war into which we were recently forced with a neighboring nation, is the demonstration it has afforded of the military strength of our country. Before the war, with Mexico, and other foreign Powers entertained impressions of our views of our physical strength as a nation, and of our ability to prosecute war, and especially a war waged out of our own country. They saw that our military arm, on the part of the established, did not consist of a native army, but of a foreign army, recruited from among the citizens of other countries, for the protection of shores against their own subjects as well as against foreign enemies, they had not conceived that it was possible for a nation, such as ours, well disciplined and of long service, to wage war, for which we were prepared, and had been, to a certain extent, organized.

Their hold in low repute our militia, and were far from regarding them as an effective force, until it might be for temporary defensive operations we were invaded on our own soil. The events of the war, and the manner in which they have been conducted, have entirely undeceived them, but have given a erroneous impression which prevailed to some extent even among a portion of our own countrymen. That they have been taken up with the breaking out of hostilities, not anterior, but for which we previous preparation had been, and for which we were prepared, to a certain extent, to sustain a war, out of our own country.

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our institutions, that we should present to the world the rare spectacle of a great Republic, possessed of no military force. This would add still more to our strength, and give to us a still more commanding position among the nations of the earth.

The public expenditures should be economical, and be confined to such necessary objects as are shared within the powers of Congress. All such as are not absolutely demanded should be postponed, and the payment of the public debt at the earliest practicable period should be a cardinal principle in our public policy.

The recommendations in my last annual message, I repeat the recommendation that a branch of the mint of the United States should be established in the city of New York. The importance of this measure is greatly increased by the acquisition of the rich mines of the precious metals in New Mexico and California, and especially in the latter.

Repeat the recommendation, heretofore made, in favor of the graduation and reduction of the price of the public lands, which have been long offered in the market, and have remained unused, and in favor of extending the rights of pre-emption to actual settlers on the unsurveyed

as well as the surveyed lands.

The conditions and operations of the army, and the state of other branches of the public service, under the direction of the War Department, are satisfactorily presented in the accompanying report of the Secretary of War.

On the return of peace, our forces were withdrawn from Mexico, and the volunteers and that portion of the regular army destined for that country were disbanded. Orders have been issued for stationing the forces of our permanent establishment at various positions in our extended country, where troops may be required. Owing to the remoteness of some of these positions, the detachments have not yet been organized, and the present condition of the country is similar in respects to that which existed immediately after the close of the war with Great Britain in 1815, and the occasion is deemed a proper one to take a retrospect of the manner in which we have conducted the war. There was at the period of our history a departure from our earlier policy.

The enlargement of the powers of the Federal Government by construction, which obtained, was not warranted by any just interpretation of the Constitution, and was of course unconstitutional. It was a series of measures, which, united and combined, constituted what was termed by their authors and advocates the "American system."

The introduction of the new policy was for a time favored by the condition of the country; but, by the depression of the public credit; by the wasteful expenditure of public money. It was the interest of the bank that the revenue collected and the disbursements made by the Government should be large, because, being the depository of the public money, the larger the amount, the greater would be their interest in the safe keeping of it.

The events of the war with Great Britain, made of my accumulated money arising from this source. The balances on hand were directed to be paid into the Treasury, and individual claims on the fund will remain unadjusted until Congress shall authorize their settlement and payment. These claims are not considerable and payment.

I recommend to your favorable consideration the suggestions of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy in regard to legislation on this subject.

Our Indian relations are presented in a most favorable light in the report from the War Department.

The wisdom of our policy in regard to the tribes within our limits is clearly manifested by their improved and rapidly improving condition.

A most important treaty with the Menomonee has recently been concluded, in which all their lands in the State of Wisconsin—being about four millions of acres—has been ceded to the United States. This treaty will be submitted to the Senate for ratification at an early period of your present session.

Within the last four years, eight important treaties have been negotiated with different Indian tribes, and at a cost of one million eight hundred and forty-two thousand dollars; Indian lands to the amount of nearly one million dollars have been thus ceded to the United States. On the return of peace, a large number of our lands in the western States, with the exception of Oregon, have been ceded to the United States a system similar to that which they adored abroad. Great Britain had a national bank of large capital, whose hands were concentrated the controlling, military and naval power of the nation, and in their hands, holding a large interest in the foreign and naval war, should be derived from the ranks of the army.

Such a measure would justify an increase of the number of officers to the extent of the reduction by dismissal, and still the corps would have fewer officers than a corresponding number of men in the regular army.

The accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy gives a satisfactory exhibit of the operations and condition of that branch of the public service.

A number of small vessels suitable for entering the number of rivers were judiciously purchased during the war, and gave great efficiency to the squadrons in the Gulf of Mexico. On the return of peace, a large number of these vessels, which had been used to the best advantage, were sold, and the money placed in the Treasury.

The number of men in the navy service, authorized by the original power, was less than the number of men in the army, and therefore less than the number of men in the navy.

A system of measures was therefore devised, calculated and silently from the States and the mass of the people, who were the exclusive objects of the care of the Government.

It was not possible to reconstruct society in the United States upon the European plan. Here there was no European plan, and the result was that the whole system of government, and the condition of the people, was to be derived from the United States a system similar to that which they adored abroad. Great Britain had a national bank of large capital, whose hands were concentrated the controlling, military and naval power of the nation, and in their hands, holding a large interest in the foreign and naval war, should be derived from the ranks of the army.

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It is gratifying to find the revenues of the Department, and the sum of postage now established by law, are nearly equal. The sum of postage during the last fiscal year amounted to four million three hundred and seventy-one thousand and seven hundred and forty-five dollars, exceeding the amount received for the year ending the 31st of March, 1845, by the sum of six thousand four hundred and fifty-three dollars, and exceeding the amount received for the year ending the 31st of June, 1847, by the sum of six thousand and twenty thousand dollars.

The expenditures for the year, excluding the sum of ninety-four thousand six hundred and seventy-two dollars, allowed by Congress at its last session to individual claimants, and including the sum of one hundred thousand five hundred dollars, were for the year ending the 31st of December, between Bremen and New York, amounted to four million one hundred and ninety-eight thousand and eight hundred and forty-five dollars, which is less than the amount for the nine months previous to the act of 1845, by the sum of seven thousand and eight hundred dollars.

The mail route, on the thirteenth day of June last, were one hundred and sixty-three thousand two hundred and eight miles in extent—being an increase of the last year of one thousand three hundred and ten miles, whilst the expenses were reduced four hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine dollars—making an increase of service at the rate of fifteen per cent. and an increase in the expenses of more than fifteen per cent.

During the past year there have been employed under contracts with the Post Office Department, two ocean steamers in conveying the mails worth.

between New York and Bremen, and one, since October last, performing semi-annually services between Liverpool and Hamburg, and a third which has been made for the transportation of the Pacific mails across the isthmus from Chagres to Panama.

Under the authority given to the Secretary of the Navy, three steamers have been ordered to enter upon the mail service between Panama and Oregon, and the intermediate ports, on the first of January next, and a fourth has been engaged by him for the service between Havana and San Juan, so that the mail will be carried to the United States and our Territories on the Pacific.

Notwithstanding this great increase in the mail service, should the revenue continue to increase to meet the cost of the service, there will be received into the Treasury, and the amount will be more than the expenditure.

These considerations have led the Postmaster General that with certain modifications of the act of 1845, the revenue may be still further increased by a reduction of postage made a uniform rate of five cents, without an interference with the principle, which has been constantly and properly enforced, of making postal rates proportional to the actual cost of the service.

A well-digested cheap postage system is the best means of diffusing intelligence among the people, and is as favorable to the public service as any other.

The several measures were sustained by popular names and plausible arguments, by which were deluded. The bank was represented to be an indispensable fiscal agent for the Government to equitably exchange, and to defend and furnish a sound currency, always and everywhere of uniform value.

The tariff was to give employment to "American labor" at advanced prices; was to protect "home industry," and furnish a steady market for the farmers. Internal improvements were to bring into every neighborhood the means of communication of every man's property.

The bank, the currency, and the system were the advocates of the largest expenditures, whether for necessary or useful purposes or not, because the larger the expenditures the greater was the pretext for high taxes in the form of protection.

Nothing can retard the onward progress of our country, but a spirit of unassuming and maintaining the first rank among nations, but a disregard of the experience of the past, and a recurrence to an unwise public policy. We have just closed a foreign war at an honorable peace, but we have not yet learned to make the best use of the opportunities which the war has given us.

The introduction of the new policy was for a time favored by the condition of the country; but, by the depression of the public credit; by the wasteful expenditure of public money.

The events of the war with Great Britain, made of my accumulated money arising from this source. The balances on hand were directed to be paid into the Treasury, and individual claims on the fund will remain unadjusted until Congress shall authorize their settlement and payment. These claims are not considerable and payment.

I recommend to your favorable consideration the suggestions of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy in regard to legislation on this subject.

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The enlargement of the powers of the Federal Government by construction, which obtained, was not warranted by any just interpretation of the Constitution, and was of course unconstitutional.

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